



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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SNP Memo #2015-2016-01

TO: Directors, Supervisors, and Contact Persons
School Nutrition Programs

FROM: Catherine Digilio Grimes, MS, RDN, LDN, SNS
Director, Office of School Nutrition Programs

DATE: July 10, 2015

SUBJECT: Family Access to Medical Insurance Security (FAMIS)- Back to School Initiative:
School Nutrition Programs Support for Expanding Enrollment

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is pleased to partner with the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) to announce the 2015 *Back-to-School* initiative to increase the enrollment of eligible children in Virginia's health insurance program. The Family Access to Medical Insurance Security Plan (FAMIS) is a comprehensive health insurance program for Virginia's children. FAMIS is administered by the DMAS and is funded by the state and federal government. VDOE and DMAS are committed to working together to expand enrollment in FAMIS, to keep the Commonwealth's children healthy and to provide support to the school divisions in this effort.

We are requesting your help to distribute the attached flyers to families who may qualify for FAMIS. Most students who are eligible to receive free or reduced price meals are also eligible for FAMIS or FAMIS Plus (children's Medicaid).

DMAS is providing school divisions with FAMIS inserts to include in notification letters sent to households determined eligible for free or reduced price meals for the 2015-2016 school year. To help notify families of this potential benefit, we appreciate your help in distributing these FAMIS mailing inserts by including one FAMIS mailing insert with every eligibility notification letter sent to families qualified for free or reduced price meals through application and direct certification.

If another person other than the school nutrition office mails the eligibility notification letters, please forward the inserts and cover letter to the individual who will be handling this process for your school division.

Action Items:

- Distribute FAMIS inserts with eligibility notification letters to households eligible to receive free or reduced price meals including all those in Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Schools.
- Continue to distribute throughout the school year to newly enrolled eligible students and, to students eligible for the USDA Summer Food Service Program.

The quantity of inserts provided by DMAS should be in sufficient for each eligibility notification letter sent. However, if additional inserts are needed, you may request more by contacting Lauren Cunningham, DMAS Marketing and Outreach Communications Coordinator, at 804-371-5053 or email lauren.cunningham@dmass.virginia.gov.

For further information or assistance about school nutrition programs, please contact the school nutrition specialist assigned to your division, the SNP associate director, or me at (804) 225-2074.

Thank you for your participation in the 2015 *Back-to-School* initiative!

CDG/idl

Attachment